

member and said channel including an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface.

Remarks

In response to the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 112, Claims 1, 6, and 14 have been amended as a matter of form, without affecting the substance of those claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Certain of the claims have been amended in view of newly-cited art of which Applicant was not previously aware. Such amendments are supported in the specification and drawings, and thus do not constitute the submission of new matter. Moreover, because the Examiner did not previously cite the art, Applicant had no prior opportunity to amend the claims in that regard. Accordingly, such amendments should be considered herein by the Examiner. As explained herein, the claims (including those amended herein) are allowable over the art of record and of which Applicant is aware, as that art does not disclose or make obvious Applicant's inventions.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ruch '511. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among other things, Ruch does not teach or make obvious Applicant's claimed "tongue member having a primary cross-sectional axis that is sloped outwardly

with respect to the center of said container rather than being vertical.” Indeed, Ruch’s Figure 3 shows the “tongue” of sidewall 4 of container 1 in an apparently vertical position, while Figure 5 shows it either vertical or sloping inwardly (toward the center of the container). Apparently Ruch’s “bulge 11” forces its sidewall 4 to slope back inwardly.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, and 5 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by May ‘375. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among other things, and as with Ruch (above), May does not teach or make obvious Applicant’s claimed “tongue member having a primary cross-sectional axis that is sloped outwardly with respect to the center of said container rather than being vertical.” Indeed, the upper edge of May’s sidewall 4 appears to be vertical or sloped inwardly.

In addition, May’s alleged “corresponding tongue and groove members” 31, 16 are not “within” the channel as required by Applicant’s Claim 1. Instead, May’s elements 31, 15 are the engaging threads around the neck of the container, and they are located below the channel (below May’s ridge 53).

Regarding Claim 4, and among other things, May does not have any “channel” forming a “liquid-tight seal” with the upper edge of its container except when threaded engagement occurs. In that regard, May’s Figure 5 shows no channel seal prior to threaded engagement between the lid and container, and Figure 6 shows an arguable “channel seal” only after threaded engagement. Applicant’s Claim 4, as amended, specifically requires “said assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement.”

Claim 5 depends from Claims 2 or 3 that, as indicated elsewhere herein, are allowable. Because it depends from allowable Claims 2 and 3, Claim 5 is likewise allowable.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2-6 and 14-18 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Crisci '107. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 now requires a "channel including an outer skirt having an annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, said shoulder positioned between an engaging detent on said skirt and said uppermost portion of said lid." Crisci's lid arguably includes a shoulder (in the area of surface 46, Figs. 2 and 4), but it is positioned below the lid's detent 42.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 2 that, as indicated elsewhere herein, is allowable. Because it depends from allowable Claims 2, Claim 3 is likewise allowable.

Claim 4 now requires a "liquid-tight seal including an inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of said container as least as far as an outer contact surface of said channel." Crisci shows a first contact surface 36 that does not extend toward the container bottom as far as the contact surface 40.

Claim 5 depends from Claims 2 or 3 that, as indicated elsewhere herein, are allowable. Because it depends from allowable Claims 2 and 3, Claim 5 is likewise allowable.

Claim 6 now requires a "tongue and groove providing an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface

extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface.”

Crisci shows a first contact surface 36 that does not extend toward the container bottom as far as the contact surface 40.

Regarding Claims 14 and 16 (and Claims 15 and 17 depending respectively therefrom), those claims all now require “a lid having a generally inverted V-shaped channel.” Claims 14-15 further require an “inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface of said channel.” Crisci shows a first contact surface 36 that does not extend toward the container bottom as far as the contact surface 40.

Claim 18 similarly now requires a “wedge member and said channel including an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface.” Crisci shows a first contact surface 36 that does not extend toward the container bottom as far as the contact surface 40.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2-5 and 14-18 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Widen ‘332. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among other things, Widen does not disclose or make obvious Claim 2’s required “channel including an outer skirt having an annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, said shoulder positioned between an engaging detent on said skirt and said uppermost portion of said lid.”

Claim 3 depends from Claim 2 that, as indicated elsewhere herein, is allowable. Because it depends from allowable Claims 2, Claim 3 is likewise allowable.

Regarding Claim 4, Widen does not disclose or make obvious the required “lid having a generally inverted V-shaped channel at its periphery.”

Claim 5 depends from Claims 2 or 3 that, as indicated elsewhere herein, are allowable. Because it depends from allowable Claims 2 and 3, Claim 5 is likewise allowable.

Regarding Claims 14 and 16 (and Claims 15 and 17 depending respectively therefrom), Widen does not disclose or make obvious the required lid having a “generally inverted V-shaped channel at its periphery.”

Finally, regarding Claim 18, Widen does not disclose or make obvious the required wedge member having an “uppermost point region of said upper edge” or the “lid having a correspondingly-shaped wedge receiving channel at its periphery.” Instead of Applicant’s claimed uppermost “point” region on the container’s upper edge, Widen has instead a broad and complex uppermost surface on its container’s upper edge.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2-17 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilkinson ‘338. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among other things, Wilkinson does not disclose or make obvious Claim 2’s “channel including an outer skirt having an annular shoulder formed therein” or Claim 4’s “generally inverted V-shaped channel.” Both prior to and after assembly, for example, Wilkinson’s channel is a complex shape having four separate interior surfaces. Regarding Claim 6, Wilkinson does not disclose or make obvious an “outer contact sur-

face being generally planar across its entire height.” Instead, as noted above, Wilkinson teaches to use a relatively complex shape having four separate interior surfaces.

Regarding Claims 14 and 16 (and Claims 15 and 17 depending respectively therefrom), and like Widen (noted above), Wilkinson does not disclose or make obvious the required lid having a “generally inverted V-shaped channel at its periphery.”

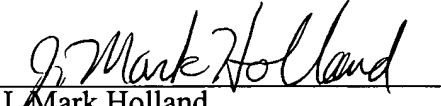
Finally, regarding Claim 18, Wilkinson does not disclose or make obvious the required wedge member having an “uppermost point region of said upper edge” or the “lid having a correspondingly-shaped wedge receiving channel at its periphery.” Instead of Applicant’s claimed uppermost “point” region on the container’s upper edge, Wilkinson has instead a broad and complex uppermost surface on its container’s upper edge.

As indicated above, Claims 3, 5, 15, and 17 depends from allowable claims, and are likewise allowable. Claims 7-13 similarly depend from allowable claims and are therefore themselves allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, it is thought that the application is now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The Claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including:
a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, in which said channel includes an outer skirt and an inner skirt generally downwardly directed, and said outer skirt includes a lower portion spaced outwardly from said container upper edge and said inner skirt includes a lower portion spaced inwardly from said container upper edge to facilitate ready alignment and engagement of said lid on said container, said lower portion of said outer skirt including a removable tear strip, and corresponding tongue and groove members on said lid and said container to interfit with each other within said channel, said tongue member having a primary cross-sectional axis that is sloped outwardly with respect to the center of said container rather than being vertical.

2. (Amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including:
a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, in which said container upper edge is tapered from a relatively thinner dimension to a relatively thicker dimension moving in from said

upper edge toward a bottom portion of said container, and said channel includes a corresponding tapered section, said tapering relationship providing contacting and sealing engagement between said lid and said container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of said upper edge, said channel including an outer skirt having an annular shoulder formed therein, said shoulder extending further outwardly than an uppermost portion of said lid, said shoulder positioned between an engaging detent on said-skirt and said uppermost portion of said lid.

4. (Amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a generally inverted V-shaped channel at its periphery, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, (said assembly between said lid and said container not including any rotating threaded engagement, in which said channel on said lid is formed by an inner skirt and an outer skirt, both of which are generally downwardly directed, and said outer skirt includes a lower portion spaced outwardly from said container upper edge to facilitate engagement of said lid on said container, said liquid-tight seal including an inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of said container as least as far as an outer contact surface of said channel.

6. (Amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; and an injection-molded lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a channel at its periphery, said channel con-

figured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container when said lid is assembled on said container, including corresponding tongue and groove members on said lid and said container to interfit with each other within said channel, said tongue and groove members providing said ~~structure to abutment to~~ and form said liquid-tight seal with said upper edge of said container, said tongue and groove providing an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface, said outer contact surface being generally planar across its entire height.

14. (Amended) A container lid having a tapered channel at its periphery, said channel being in a generally inverted V-shape, said channel configured to abut and form a liquid-tight seal with an upper edge of a corresponding container when said lid is assembled on the container, said tapered channel tapering providing contacting and sealing engagement between said lid and the container on both an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface of said channel, said inner contact surface of said channel extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface of said channel.

16. (Amended) A lid having a generally Uninverted V-shaped cross section, both legs of said cross section configured to abut a corresponding container to thereby form a liquid-tight seal with the container.

18. (Amended) Apparatus for providing a liquid-tight seal, including: a container having an upper edge defining an opening; said upper edge constituting in cross section a generally vertical wedge member, said wedge member tapering in cross

section from an uppermost point region of said upper edge to a wider region spaced away from said uppermost portion; and an ~~injection-molded~~ lid configured to cover said opening, said lid having a correspondingly-shaped wedge receiving channel at its periphery, said correspondence between said wedge member and said channel forming a liquid-tight seal therebetween when said lid is assembled on said container, with substantially no deformation of said wedge receiving channel required for said assembly of said lid and container, said wedge member and said channel including an inner contact and an outer contact surface between said lid and said container, said inner contact surface extending toward the bottom of the container as least as far as said outer contact surface.